COCHRANE, CHARLES N

December 1918- January 1919

(001)

December 13th, 1918

Lieutenant C. N. Cochrane,

Pinecroft,

Pinoza Lane, Purley, Surrey, England.

My dear Lieutenant Cochrane:

We are arranging for classes to begin very shortly after the New Year with a view of preparing returned men to resume their work next year. It will therefore be necessary for us to have a special staff to do so. I believe that you with your special experience overseas and your knowledge of our situation here would be of the greatest assistance to us, if you could return immediately after the New Year and take up work on the staff. Should this meet your views will you kindly make application at once in London ? You might cable me "Yes" and I will make application at Ottawa.

I wrote to Lieutenant Coventry last week in answer to a letter in which he said that he was undertaking work in the Leeds University. I think you could do better work for us at home. I was sorry to miss you when I was in England, but I could not make my arrangements to get down to Bovington. I hope that you have escaped the flu and are in good form. With kindest regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

FORM C.A. 1

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GREAT NORTH WESTERN TELEGRAPH AND CABLE CABLEGRAM

Z. A. LASH, *President* **HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO, ONT.** GEO. D. PERRY, *General Manager*

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BOVINGTON CAMP JAN 2ND 1919

PRESIDENT ,

UNIVERSITY TORONTO.

YES.

COCHRANE

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Bovington Camp
Dorset. England
Dec. 28. 18

Dear Sir Robert

Since the armistice, I have been meaning to write you; but have so far left off doing so because it is quite impossible to find out what disposition the authorities intend to make of the unit.

The War office takes the ground that we are the only trained tank battalion in reserve, and on that account wishes to hold us until peace is signed. I believe they actually desired to send us to Russia. Argyle House therefore,

up in our own lines as well as giving routine instruction, and have consequently been left with the unit. The more important sides of the Khaki University work at present are along agricultural, technical and Commercial ~~lines~~. In other camps Common and high school education is also needed. The central college in which the junior Arts work will be attempted has not yet been authorized My own feeling is that this latter cannot be a real success.

Coventry has charge of administering the college here; and I have gradually accumulated most of the matriculation and arts work, which I am quite glad to do for the sake of our own men. This sounds more formidable than it really

although they will not allow us to be sent abroad, hold us here. Having arrived in England overstrength in officers according to the new establishment of tank units they have accepted the applications of several of our officers to be sent home before the general demobilization scheme comes into effect, and our officer establishment is already pretty well riddled. When these applications were asked for, I spoke to Major Mavor about being returned. He said he did not quite like to release me. It seemed obvious that arrangements had already been made for instruction in my department during the present academic year. Consequently I felt that I had no very strong claim for special consideration and I let the matter drop.

All of us who have had previous teaching experience offered our services while in England to the Khaki University. Dr. Tory came to camp and organized a branch college. At the same time, he selected a number of instructors for other camps. Coventry and I, who felt that we were in the peculiar position of having arrived overseas very late and yet wasted a long time in military employment, asked that we be given an opportunity of bunking

is. The matriculation class is made up of a dozen men. Three or four newspaper men want me to read some English Essays with them. I have also two Toronto University undergraduates in classics, and am giving them a dose of Thucydides.

The work has so far been hampered by lack of books, which are hard to get; and by leave of various kinds. We are also forced to do half time tank training, & can read only in the afternoons.

The greatest difficulty however in the way of instruction is the

uncertainty of our fate. Now that hostilities seem to be definitely over, no one is really loyal to the unit. Everyone, including senior officers, is ready to fly the coop just as soon as he sees where he is going to alight. For myself, I fear that if something does not happen soon, I shall be involved in the general demobilization scheme and be left here indefinitely. This, I know, is a very selfish point of view, but one must recognize facts when they occur.

It is perfectly natural to desire to get out of the demoralizing idleness of army life as soon as possible, and attempt to recover something of the wasted years; and perfectly natural to feel that if this does not happen soon, ones' prospects of doing satisfactory work particularly in the university will not be too bright. I should be fairly satisfied if we were sent home by early spring and I were then given the chance of doing some strenuous reading before next October.

May I wish you, Sir, a very happy New Year

Yours Sincerely

Charles Cochrane

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Kinmel Park Camp
Rhyl.
N. Wales
28.1.19.

Dear Sir Robert.

My failure to write you has been due to the fact that I expected to show up in person at the University long before this.

When your very welcome letter reached me, I lost no time in making an application to return home. This was answered in the affirmative on January 13th, and I was instructed to report to this camp. The demobilization scheme is now in full operation, and all troops, other than invalided men, and the divisions from France, must pass through this centre.

I have now been here for nearly a fortnight, but so far have not been assigned to a sailing. I believe however that the

ships available are to be largely increased at the beginning of the month, and am confident that I shall be detailed to one or other of the drafts that are to sail in the first week of February.

All officers must do conducting duty. I hope that, when my draft does reach Toronto, I shall not be kept in Camp for any length of time. Perhaps something could be done through Col. Lang to secure my immediate release.

I have been rather worried for fear that your plans were being hindered by my failure to make a quicker job of getting out. I sincerely hope that this is not so.

Yours very Truly

Charles N Cochrane